

Summary on
Café Mosaic Exercise: Comments from group participation
I-94 North-South
Advisory Committee Meeting of June 5, 2006

Question #1:

Please list the potential barriers or challenges for achieving business and/or labor opportunities for this community.

Why is the Question important?:

- a. Training/education dependent upon needs and jobs availability;
- b. Lack of transportation to and from jobs;
- c. Communication that adequately addresses language and access concerns;
- d. Limited resources, such as, business creation and financing.

Further discussion identified additional barriers to participation in business and/or labor opportunities. The first is the lack of a driver's license. Without a valid driver's license, business and labor opportunities are limited. Hindering diversification of participation in the full range of activities for transportation development. The second barrier was getting all parties (contractors/businesses) to the policy table. Communities successful in getting appropriate parties to the policy table anticipate attainable business and/or labor goals for the community. The final barrier identified are the various language barriers that may exist within the community. A high level of Spanish speaking residents within these communities indicates that public information communication material needs to reflect the residents' language and culture and is comprehensive in implementation.

Question #2:

Identify key people or resources that need to be involved in our committees to ensure that the barriers and challenges are addressed in a way that benefits this community.

One key resource needed for implementation in this community to ensure that the barriers and challenges are addressed is the use of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Faith Base Organizations (FBOs). All three groups cited FBOs or Interfaith Coalitions involvement as essential to the betterment of the community and could be used as a networking and/or facilitation tool to voice the community's concerns regarding transportation projects and/or other issues or concerns. Two out of three groups stated that workforce development, implementing training, and school system educational efforts may be a valuable way to address barriers that occur in the community. Another resource mentioned by two of three groups were training-utilizing schools/good technical training schools and programs positioned to develop the skills of minority and women.

A consensus across all three groups participating, is that WisDOT/DBE, print media, and elected official involvement be identified as key resources to the committee as it moves forward.

- 1.) WisDOT/DBE- these are a number of services and resources that the Department will provide to assist in setting structures and processes for meeting community concerns.
 - a. Resources such as:
 - Contract management guidance
 - Bid/Plan review
 - Legal assistance
 - Revolving Loan Funding assistance
 - Trans Labor assistance
- 2.) Print Media- utilizing neighborhood or community papers and media to provide a forum for presenting concerns and issues by all groups impacted by the project.
- 3.) Elected Officials-provide a local perspective of the barriers and needs of their constituents. They have the ability to provide a unique approach to getting business, local units of government fully engaged in the process.

Question #3:

What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community?

Overall concern with ensuring that WisDOT structures key elements of the business and labor component for the project meets community needs and objectives.

Suggestions include:

- a. Listen to and acknowledge local concerns through informative listening sessions
- b. Monitor and enforce implementation of key elements of the project to ensure active and full participation of the community.
- c. Dissemination of the information received
- d. Assessing community needs

Elected official support and endorsement of the program structure and implementation provides validity for residents and the general public on goals and objectives for the project.

Question #4:

Fill in the blank, “As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful.”

This question was asked to guide WisDOT in understanding the vision and goals of those participating in this process. What do they hope to achieve in this process from the Racine and Kenosha communities?

Additional issues noted during the discussion included, knowledge transfer to local governments and businesses.

These areas may include:

- DBE activities
- Community involvement activities
- Transportation access to/from training
- Civil rights compliance

Email feedback from the I-94 Advisory Committee meeting:

Morris Reece, Fair Housing of Racine- Participant

Mr. Reece's comment on the meeting:

"I personally felt good about the event last night, 6/5/06; everyone that attended appeared to be quite engaged in contributing their comments and thoughts. I believe this was a wonderful start in developing trust and confidence with the Racine/Kenosha culture."